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RUDKRP/AMEMBASSY PRAGUE 0000
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 0000
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State Dept. review completed

EZ1:

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 289339

EZ2:

FOR DECD AND USEC

E.O. 12065: ROS-3 10/28/01 (JOHN A. WARNOCK)

TAGS: ELAB

SUBJECT: SOVIET AND FRENCH COMMUNIST TRADE UNION AGREEMENT

REFERENCE: STATE 259500

FOR LABOR COUNSELORS AND ATTACHES

1. (C) SUMMARY. THE AGREEMENTS SIGNED BY THE CGT AND THE AUCCTU PROVIDE FOR A SERIES OF MEASURES AIMED AT MOBILIZING WESTERN EUROPEAN TRADE UNION OPPOSITION TO US AND NATO DEFENSE POLICIES, AND OTHER US INTERESTS. THE AGREEMENTS ALSO REPEATED EARLIER CGT AND AUCCTU CALLS FOR MORE GENERAL PAN-EUROPEAN TRADE UNION COOPERATION, PROPOSALS WHICH ARE RELEVANT NOT ONLY TO THE CURRENT EFFORTS TO OPEN UP THE ETUC TO THE SPANISH COMMUNISTS, BUT TO LONGER RANGE POSSIBILITIES IN THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION FIELD AS WELL. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) REFTEL PROVIDED THE TEXTS OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE AND MUTUAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED IN MOSCOW IN SEPTEMBER BY THE FRENCH COMMUNIST CONTROLLED CGT, AND THE SOVIET AUCCTU.

3. (U) THE VALUE OF THESE DOCUMENTS (IN ADDITION TO THE LIGHT THEY SHED ON THE BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO

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ORGANIZATIONS) LIES IN THE CONFIRMATION THEY PROVIDE AS TO THE BROAD THRUST OF CURRENT COMMUNIST TRADE UNION STRATEGY AND PROPAGANDA IN WESTERN EUROPE AND ELSEWHERE. IN THAT CONNECTION, IT IS USEFUL TO NOTE THE FOLLOWING MAJOR THEMES WHICH WERE DEVELOPED IN THE CGT-AUCCTU'S "ANALYSIS" OF THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE:

- THE UNITED STATES' DEFENSE POLICIES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE "DETERIORATION" IN THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION; SPECIFICALLY: THE DECISIONS TO MODERNIZE THE INF; BUILD THE NEUTRON BOMB; AND PROCLAIM "THE DOCTRINE OF SO-CALLED LIMITED NUCLEAR WAR" (SIC) INCREASE THE RISK OF CONFLICT.

- MOREOVER, INCREASES IN MILITARY EXPENDITURES CREATE A SERIOUS ECONOMIC BURDEN FOR THE WORKING CLASS.

- UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, THE MOST IMPORTANT TASK FACING THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION MOVEMENT IS TO FIGHT AGAINST THESE THREATS TO PEACE AND PROSPERITY.

- TO THAT END, THE CGT AND AUCCTU ADVOCATE:

- (A) THE RESUMPTION OF TALKS AT ALL LEVELS, AND PARTICULARLY BETWEEN THE US AND THE SOVIET UNION, TO PREVENT "A NEW ROUND IN NUCLEAR MISSILE WEAPONRY."

- (B) A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION TO THE MADRID TALKS.

- (C) A CONFERENCE ON MILITARY DETENTE AND DISARMAMENT IN EUROPE.

- (D) THE (WFTU PLANNED) WORLD TRADE UNION CONFERENCE ON THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF DISARMAMENT; WHICH WILL BE A DEMONSTRATION FOR "PEACE" AND IN DEFENSE OF THE "ECONOMIC INTERESTS" OF THE WORKING CLASS.

4. (U) IN ADDITION, THE DOCUMENTS ALSO IDENTIFY THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL POINTS IN WHICH THE CGT AND THE AUCCTU AGREE:

- TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO BRING ABOUT INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION UNITY IN THE STRUGGLES FOR "PEACE," FOR "THE PRESERVATION OF LIVING STANDARDS AND SOCIAL GAINS," AND AGAINST THE MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS.

- TO STRENGTHEN THEIR COOPERATION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE WFTU, AND HELP DEVELOP AN EFFECTIVE PROGRAM FOR THE UNIONS ENGAGED IN THE CLASS STRUGGLE AT THE FEBRUARY WFTU CONGRESS IN HAVANA.

- TO ENCOURAGE "FURTHER TRADE UNION ACTIONS IN THE SPIRIT OF THE DECISIONS MADE BY THE 1980 BELGRADE TRADE UNION CONFERENCE ON DEVELOPMENT"; THE DEVELOPMENT OF BUSINESS-LIKE TRADE COOPERATION ON THE EUROPEAN CONTINENT ON THE BROADEST SPECTRUM OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS"; AND "REGULAR ALL-EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCES AS A PROMISING FORM OF COOPERATION BETWEEN TRADE UNIONS OF DIFFERENT (IDEOLOGIES)."

- TO WORK TOGETHER TO ELIMINATE ALL VESTIGES OF COLONIALISM; TO ESTABLISH A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER; AND TO COOPERATE IN THE ILC TO ADVANCE THESE GOALS.

5. (C) COMMENT: THERE SEEMS NOTHING PARTICULARLY NEW OR UNUSUAL IN THE ANALYSIS OR COURSES OF ACTION OUTLINED BY THE CGT AND AUCCTU. THEY ARE FULLY IN KEEPING (ALBEIT IN AN INTERESTINGLY FORMALIZED WAY) WITH TRADITIONAL COMMUNIST "UNITY OF ACTION" TACTICS TO USE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO TRY TO ALIENATE THE

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WESTERN EUROPEAN TRADE UNIONS FROM THE US; AND TO BRING THEM INTO CLOSER CONTACT, BOTH ORGANIZATIONALLY AND PERSONALLY, WITH THEIR EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTERPARTS.

6. (C) HOWEVER, THE PUBLICATION OF THESE DOCUMENTS COINCIDES WITH OTHER DEVELOPMENTS ON THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION SCENE, WHICH CAUSE THEM TO TAKE ON A SOMEWHAT GREATER SIGNIFICANCE. PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS IS THE CAMPAIGN, CURRENTLY UNDERWAY WITHIN THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC), TO ADMIT THE SPANISH COMMUNIST TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION.

7. (C) A NUMBER OF ETUC AFFILIATES OPENLY FAVOR ADMITTING ALL THE REMAINING MAJOR UNIONS IN WESTERN EUROPE NOT AFFILIATED; I.E., THE SPANISH, PORTUGUESE, AND FRENCH COMMUNISTS (THE ITALIAN CGIL WAS ADMITTED ONCE IT LEFT THE WFTU - WITH SOVIET APPROVAL). OTHER EUROPEAN FEDERATIONS FEEL THAT ALTHOUGH THE SPANISH COMMUNISTS MERIT ADMISSION (AS INTERNALLY DEMOCRATIC) THE PORTUGUESE AND FRENCH COMMUNIST UNIONS REMAIN UNACCEPTABLY "STALINIST" IN THEIR ORIENTATION. TO DATE, THE PROponents OF ADMITTING THE SPANISH COMMUNISTS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO KEEP THE CANDIDACY ALIVE, AND HOPE TO WEAR DOWN THE OPPOSITION, OVER TIME. (ONE OF THE TACTICS APPARENTLY BEING USED NOW, AS ON EARLIER OCCASIONS IS TO INSINUATE THAT THE GERMAN OPPOSITION TO THE COMMUNISTS IS NOT SOLID AND WILL "GIVE").

8. (C) SHOULD THESE TACTICS WORK, AND THE SPANISH COMMUNISTS BE ADMITTED, IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT THERE WILL BE AN IRRESISTIBLE SLIDE TOWARDS ALSO ADMITTING THE FRENCH AND PORTUGUESE COMMUNISTS. SHOULD THAT HAPPEN, IT WOULD MEAN, IN THE CASE OF THE FRENCH CGT, THE ENTRY INTO ETUC OF AN ORGANIZATION WHICH IS NOT ONLY THE LAST SIGNIFICANT WESTERN EUROPEAN MEMBER OF THE WFTU, BUT ALSO ONE WHICH IS IN FULL FORMAL ALLIANCE WITH THE AUCCTU AGAINST US INTERESTS AND WHICH IS WORKING FOR PAN-EUROPEAN TRADE UNION "COOPERATION" AND "UNITY."

9. (C) IN THAT CONNECTION, SOME OF THOSE ETUC AFFILIATES WHO ADVOCATE THE ADMISSION OF THE SPANISH COMMUNISTS, (AND THE OTHERS), ARGUE THAT THE ETUC IS MERELY AN ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION, WHICH MUST BE AS FULLY REPRESENTATIVE AS POSSIBLE OF ALL THE TRADE UNIONS OF THE EC AND EFTA. SEEN FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF WASHINGTON, THE ETUC'S TRACK RECORD IS SUCH THAT IT CANNOT SERIOUSLY CLAIM TO BE AN APOLITICAL ORGANIZATION (E.G., ITS ACTIONS ON TURKEY). RATHER THERE IS REASON TO SUSPECT THAT SOME OF THE DRIVING FORCE FOR THE ADMISSION OF THE SPANISH AND OTHER COMMUNISTS INTO ETUC IS PURELY POLITICAL. SPECIFICALLY, SOME OF THE ETUC AFFILIATES SEEM TO WANT TO CREATE A WESTERN EUROPEAN TRADE UNION BLOC WHICH WOULD BE AS INDEPENDENT OF AMERICAN INFLUENCE AS THEY IMAGINE IT WOULD BE OF SOVIET. (IN THAT CONNECTION ADDRESSEES SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT SUCH CONFERENCES AS BELGRADE WERE HEAVILY FINANCED BY THE FRENCH CFDT AND THE ITALIANS; AND THAT REGIONAL EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCES UNDER ILO AUSPICES ALREADY TAKE PLACE.) HAIG

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